

MAG Human Services
Technical Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 21, 2002

MEMBERS ATTENDING

*Lorenzo Aguirre, City of El Mirage
*Judy Bowden, Mesa United Way
Margot Cordova, Valley of the Sun United Way
Debra Detterman, City of Mesa
*Moises Gallegos, City of Phoenix
Steve Wise for Kate Hanley, Tempe Community Council
Carl Harris-Morgan, Town of Gilbert
Sandra Holt, DES/AAA
Connie James, City of Scottsdale
Jeannie Jertson, Human Services Department
Jim Knaut for Mary Lynn Kasunic, Area Agency on Aging
Barbara Knox, DES/RSA
Dan Lundberg, City of Surprise
Doris Marshall, City of Phoenix
*Jim McCabe, Area Agency on Aging
*Jose Mercado, City of Phoenix
*Diane Mullin, City of Glendale
Susan Neidlinger, DES/DDD
*Sheryl Pieper, City of Tolleson

Sandra Reagan, Southwest Community Network,
Chairman
Kyle Moore, DES/ACYF
Mary Jo Swartz, DES/CSA
*Paige Thomas, Glendale Human Services Council
Wayne Tormala, City of Phoenix
*Margaret Trujillo, Value Options
Patrick Tyrrell, City of Chandler
Betsy Buxer for Rebecca Van Marter, The
Community Forum
Deanna Jonona for Neal Young, City of Phoenix

*Those members neither present nor represented
by proxy.

OTHERS PRESENT

Mike Shaffer, DES
Jerry Hancock, DES
Carol Kratz, Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust
Hildi Gottlieb and Dimitri Petropolis, Southwest
Diaper Network
Suzanne Quigley, MAG Staff
Mary Thomson, MAG Staff

I. Call to Order

Chairman Sandra Reagan called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. and introductions ensued.

2. Approval of February 21, 2002 Minutes

Chairman Reagan asked for comments and a motion to approve the February 21, 2002 Technical Committee Minutes. Ms. Mary Jo Swartz's motion to approve the minutes and seconded by Mr. James Knaut passed unanimously

3. AdvantAge Elderly Survey

Chairman Reagan announced that Ms. Carol Kratz from The Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust will present to the Committee earlier than listed on the agenda due to a pending appointment. Ms. Kratz began by handing out information on the Trust including a summary of some of the projects funded to date.

Ms. Kratz then went on to discuss the AdvantAge Elderly Survey being supported by The Trust. AdvantAge is an initiative developed by Visiting Nurses of New York to promote elder friendly communities. She stated that the survey was also supported by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The survey will be sent out in June, 2002 in both English and Spanish. In the meantime, a letter of support from the MAG Human Services Coordinating Committee was sent to assure the survey respondents that this was a legitimate survey. A random sample of 1500 people over 65 years living in Maricopa County were selected for the telephone survey to be conducted by WESTAT, Inc.

The survey is comprehensive in that it addresses family status, housing, income, personal safety, transportation, social service needs, and health issues. Indicators will also focus on civic and social engagement. Ms. Kratz reiterated that civic and social engagement is an important category considering that so many will be young and active when they retire. One project that has already resulted from the survey in other communities addresses how to redesign libraries to make them more senior friendly place for people to gather.

Ms. Kratz stated that many of the benchmarks we expect to result out of the survey, the Technical Committee has already initiated in the community. She also stated that Visiting Nurse will provide technical assistance. The survey will allow Maricopa County to determine how it is serving this particular population compared with the other nine communities that are also participating.

Ms. Dorris Marshall inquired how the length of survey worked in the other communities. Ms. Kratz stated that they found that the length was not an issue. She indicated that many of the planning elements are already underway and this survey will mainly verify that we are heading in the right direction.

Ms. Reagan added that the survey will be a valuable tool and asked Ms. Kratz to keep the Committee informed of any other assistance or support needed.

4. Final AZ 2002 SSBG Allocation

Mr. Jerry Hancock of DES began by handing out a summary of the FFY2002 SSBG funding. He stated that the final funding at the federal level is \$1.7 billion and that Arizona's allocation was \$30,819,824. The SFY2002 (1/4 FFY 2001 and 3/4 FFY 2002) is \$30,522,450 which amounts to a \$692,094 reduction from the SFY2002 locally planned levels of \$31,214,544. He stated that the department was able to cover the loss and did not have to reduce any

services. He stated that in FY2003, there is an expected reduction in planning funds and that the federal allocation is expected to be the same as FFY 2002 at \$30,819,824.

5. Status of FY 2003 SSBG and TANF Funding

Mr. Hancock stated that the reduction for the locally planned SSBG funds for the COG's is expected to be approximately \$100,000 for FY2003. The MAG locally planned SSBG portion is anticipated to be reduced by \$52,000. DES is requesting that local planning be completed by April 30, 2002 so that they can submit the State SSBG plan to Department of Health and Human Services by end of May 2002. Mr. Hancock highlighted the funding levels in the attached handout along with the timeline.

There was a budget reduction plan calling for a \$500,000 reduction in the TANF Transfer that was allocated by the Legislature to the COGS for local planning. Mr. Hancock stated that DES is waiting to hear about the status of the COG TANF funding in the Legislature. DES is requesting that the COG's provide two TANF plans – one with full funding and one with \$500K reduction. MAG would lose \$293,000 of TANF funds if the reduction was passed on the budget.

Chairman Reagan announced that the next meeting on April 11th will focus solely on developing the SSBG and TANF planning recommendations. We will then submit the recommendations to the Coordinating Committee by mid April for their approval.

Ms. Quigley asked Ms. Jertson to highlight the meeting with Representative Mark Anderson to discuss the need to maintain the COG TANF funds. Ms. Jertson stated that they discussed the importance of maintaining the current TANF and SSBG funding levels and focused on the critical role they play in social service delivery in Mesa and throughout the region. Representative Anderson informed them of the possibility of receiving \$24M in Federal Supplemental Funds which might be used to maintain the TANF appropriation to the COGs. Representative Anderson suggested that the Committee needed to focus on targeting legislators who don't normally serve on the Human Service Committees to keep them aware of importance of maintaining the current SSBG/TANF funding levels. Ms. Jertson asked members to call their legislators to inform them how agencies in their district will be affected by the cuts. Chairman Reagan asked staff to e-mail members talking points and legislators contact numbers.

Ms. Quigley asked members to provide staff with information or speakers to bring to the meeting next month to assist in making the funding decisions. Mr. Knaut asked if Bruce Liggett could come speak about the budget especially since things will change quite a bit between now and then. Ms. Jertson recommended that Eddie Sissens from Morrison Institute of Justice to come as well.

Chairman Reagan thanked Mr. Hancock for taking time to address the Committee today.

6. Southwest Diaper Bank

Ms. Hildi Gottlieb and Mr. Dimitri Petropolis presented on the Southwest Diaper Network. Ms. Gottlieb began by providing the Committee with some background on the projects inception. The Network began as a diaper drive in 1999 in Pima County. Their first year they raised 20,000 diapers and last year they raised approximately 350,000 diapers and distributed them to over 30 agencies.

Ms. Gottlieb then reviewed some of the issues around the affordability of diapers. It is very difficult to afford diapers for people only making minimum wage. Many people will resort to either leaving their child in a diaper all day or to stealing one or two by ripping open a bag from grocery stores. Once the bags are ripped open, grocery stores must either dispose of the diapers or send them back to the manufacturer. The Diaper Network discovered a way to get the stores to donate the unused diapers for distribution.

Another obstacle is that benefits under SSI, Medicare and TANF do not provide for diapers. The social service providers spend a large percentage of their budgets on keeping supplies of diapers in stock for clients. A prerequisite for daycare is that diapers be provided. They did a needs assessment in Pima County and found the need was for 2,000,000 diapers per year.

After two years of conducting general diaper drives, they decided to form the Diaper Network. Their primary strategy was to develop opportunities to collaborate in the community without having to raise a lot of resources. They mapped out the functions and then realized that the community agencies already had many of the resources. They decided to primarily distribute to agencies and school resource offices.

The biggest resource need was for warehousing. After releasing a Request for Proposal to all the non-profits, they received 6 bids, the lowest one from TETRA – an agency that works with developmentally disabled populations. This project also proved to be a great project for training clients at TETRA work skills.

Currently, the Diaper Network is just under 2 years old and is the only agency in the country that only provides diapers. After they were receiving calls from all over the state they received a planning grant from St. Lukes Charitable Trust to figure out how to expand the service outside Pima County. They are here today in their attempt to do a needs assessment and map out how the Diaper Network will take shape in Maricopa County.

Ms. Susan Niedlinger stated how DES/DDD was trying to address the diaper shortage problem several years ago. She collaborated with six businesses to reduce prices on diapers and nutritional supplements. The project has been successful on a statewide basis. She confirmed that there is a valuable need for this service in Maricopa County.

Ms. Swartz stated that the Food Banks are well developed in this community and probably would be a key player in distribution and warehousing. Ms. Cordova discussed the Gifts-In -

Kind program under the Valley of the Sun United Way and how the food banks are utilized in distributing and warehousing the items that are donated.

Ms. Betsy Buxer asked why they don't just collect money and provide vouchers to clients and agencies. Ms. Gottlieb stated that they can get diapers much cheaper because they buy them in bulk or get them donated. She stated that 40% of operating budget is in-kind donations and total annual cost is \$100K to do the whole program.

Ms. Quigley suggested they contact the Valley Contributors Network, Intertribal Council, the Community Action Programs and the Area Agency on Aging. Mr. Wayne Tormala also informed them that St. Mary's Food Bank has a huge warehouse that they just purchased and are opening it up to the community.

Ms. Gottlieb and Mr. Petropolis thanked the Committee for allowing them to speak and for their valuable input. They are putting together a working group to map out the program in Maricopa County and are looking for volunteers to work on the group. Ms. Thomson will take Committee Members names and forward them to Ms. Gottlieb and Mr. Petropolis.

7. Legislative Update

Ms. Jertson previously highlighted the meeting held with Representative Anderson to discuss the need to maintain TANF and SSBG funding levels. She also shared an e-mail from Representative Anderson that stated he was planning on taking the COG TANF off of his list of recommended cuts.

She also discussed the legislative bill HB2409, sponsored by Camarot/Loredo for the elimination of egregious tax exemptions that is going to be heard on March 26th at 8:00am in House Counties and Municipalities Committee.

8. Call to the Public

No public comments were made.

9. Announcements

Ms. Thomson announced that the Food Bank has agreed to distribute 15,000 of the Food Brochures and that she has food brochures with her today for those members who volunteered to help distribute them at the last meeting.

Ms. Quigley stated that there is going to be a homeless count to develop the gaps analysis for the HUD application and they are looking for volunteers to go out on March 27 to conduct the count. She also stated that the Aging and Mobility Conference will take place Monday – Wednesday of next week at the Doubletree La Posada in Scottsdale.

Chairman Reagan stated that the next meeting will be April 11 from 9-11 where we will focus primarily on SSBG and TANF recommendations due at end of April to DES.

10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.